

# COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITH LEGAL SERVICES

Increase state funding for these survivors

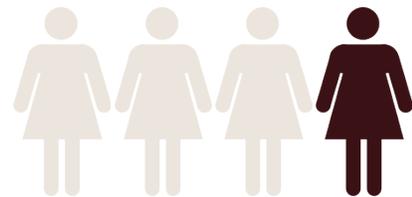
*While shelters, hotlines, and counseling are vitally important crisis-intervention aid, it is legal services that offer alternatives to the abusive relationship*

## THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM ASSISTANCE ACT

- ▶ Provides funding to Legal Aid of North Carolina and Pisgah Legal Services to provide free legal services to domestic violence victims to escape abuse and rebuild their lives
- ▶ Helps more than 4,800 domestic violence victims each year, often with the assistance of volunteer attorneys

# 100

the average number of domestic violence-related homicides each year



one in four women will report violence at the hands of an intimate partner during her lifetime

Amelia's boyfriend abused her for years, causing her to fear for her life and for the safety of her young son - her abuser convinced her that if she left, she would lose her son. But after being badly beaten with a metal chain, Amelia sought help.



Amelia was referred to Pisgah Legal Services (PLS). PLS Attorney Erin Wilson represented Amelia and obtained a 1-year protection order, custody of her son, and possession of their vehicle. Today Amelia is living a life free of fear and abuse.



North Carolina ranks fourth in the nation for homicides committed by men against women

# \$5 BILLION

the estimated yearly cost of intimate partner violence to employers nationally

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